

Harford County Commission on Disabilities

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Meeting Minutes April 24, 2006

Attendance:

Members Present:

Debbie Braam
Bob Coen
Stacey Hull
Gil Kennedy
Laurie Kwiedorowicz
Marc Weinstein

Members Absent:

Susan Austin
Angela Barnett
Buddy Green
Councilman Dion Guthrie
Kathy Halliday
Joan Loftus
Rhia Perry

- I. Vice Chair Laurie Kwiedorowicz called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. Commission members and visitors introduced themselves.
 - II. Minutes: The minutes of the March 27, 2006 Commission meeting were approved as presented.
 - III. Committee Reports:
 - A. Executive Committee: The Commission is accepting applications until May 22, 2006 to fill vacancies in the following categories:
 - A county citizen who owns or operates a local business or who is an employee of a local business;
 - Individuals representing agencies serving individuals with disabilities;
 - A student representativeMembers are asked to contact Sharon Grzanka about their
- Striving for a Better Way of Life for Harford County Citizens with Disabilities*



availability to serve on an application review committee.

B. Accessibility Committee:

1. Ramps for Homeowners and Renters Program: Gil Kennedy reported that a letter was sent to Beth Hendrix, Deputy Director of the Department of Community Services and Community Development Manager about the Commission's interest in seeking a non-profit partner to administer the program. More to follow.
2. Housing Coalition: No new information.

C. Education Committee: Debbie Braam reported that the Expo Planning Committee held its 2006 Expo Wrap-Up meeting. Overall, evaluations of the event and the new venue were good. There were comments about the lack of automatic door openers on the exterior doors of the New Life Center and a concern about placement of an exhibitor table. Overall, though, exhibitors were pleased with the amount of visitor traffic.

D. Government and Community Relations Committee:

1. Commission web page: Visit the Commission web page to see this month's "Spotlight on Services" on the Abilities Network. Chairperson Bob Coen has developed draft questions for a customer satisfaction/input survey to be placed on-line. Bob also reported that there was a spike in visits to the Commission's web page during the Expo registration period.
2. Legislative Committee: Laurie Kwiedorowicz distributed updated information on the 2006 Legislative Session.

IV. Disabilities Coordinator Report: The Harford County Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities has expressed interest in becoming a committee of the Commission on Disabilities. The Commission voted to authorize Sharon Grzanka to explore the process and any issues that might have to be resolved to absorb the Committee.

V. Old Business:

A. Transportation Steering Committee:

1. As reported earlier, a team from Harford County is attending Easter Seals' Project Action Mobility Planning Services Institute, April 22-25, 2006 in Washington, DC. The team is focusing on improving coordination of public and human service agency transportation in Harford County. Commissioner Joan Loftus will provide a report upon her return.
 2. Work on a travel training video has begun. Plans for the video include posting it on the Commission web page. (Commissioners expressed interest in posting the Commission's Harford MagaScene episode on the Commission's web page. Sharon Grzanka will contact Cheryl Landreth, the County's web master for assistance.)
- B. Emergency Preparedness: No new information.
 - C. Updating Commission on Disabilities Brochure: No new information.
 - D. Harford County Public Library (HCPL) Assistive Technology Open House and Fair: The event will be held on October 7, 2006 at the Bel Air Branch of the Harford County Library. More information to follow.

VI. New Business:

- A. Mental Health Town Hall Meeting: The date for the event has been tentatively set for October 16, 2006 at the McFaul Center. More information to follow.
- B. Maryland Department of Disabilities 2006 Maryland Distinguished Youth Award. The Commission voted to nominate its student representative, Rhia Perry, for the award. Other nominations will be made by the Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities and Harford County Public Schools Transition Itinerants.

VII. Public Comment and Announcements:

- VIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Commission will be held on Monday, May 22, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. at the historic "Bel Air Colored High School".

These minutes are available in alternative format upon request.